

# Pruning That Produces

"What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger", Part 4 of 7  
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener... you are the branches."  
(John 15:1, 5b, NIV)

## I) THE CHARACTERS INVOLVED IN OUR GROWTH

- 1) God is the gardener: He \_\_\_OVERSEES\_\_\_ our growth in Him.
- 2) Jesus is the vine: He \_\_\_PROVIDES\_\_\_ our growth through Him.
- 3) Believers are the branches: We \_\_\_EXPERIENCE\_\_\_ growth by Him.
- 4) A godly life is the fruit: We \_\_\_DEMONSTRATE\_\_\_ growth with Him.

## II) THE CHARACTER & CONSEQUENCES OF GROWTH

### *Four Types Of "Fruit Bearing" And God's Response*

#### 1) When believers "bear no fruit", God \_DISCIPLINES THEM TO GROW\_.

"Every branch in Me **that does not bear fruit**, He takes away... You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." (John 15:2a & 3, NASB)

"Do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves... Endure hardship as discipline. God is treating you as sons... we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!...God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."  
(Hebrews 12:5-11, NIV)

#### 2) When believers "bear fruit", God \_\_\_DEVELOPS THEM FOR MORE\_\_\_.

"...and every branch **that bears fruit**, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit."  
(John 15:2b, NASB)

"You know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."  
(James 1:3-4, NIV)

#### 3) When believers "bear much fruit", God \_\_\_DEEPENS THEM IN HIM\_\_\_.

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing."  
(John 15:4-5, NIV)

#### 4) When people "never bear fruit", God \_\_\_DOES NOT KNOW THEM\_\_\_.

"If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a **branch that is thrown away** and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned." (John 15:6, NIV)

## III) THE CHARACTER OF A GROWING, PRUNED LIFE

#### 1) Your prayers start being \_\_\_ANSWERED\_\_\_ as you pray God's will.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."  
(John 15:7, NIV)

#### 2) You start becoming \_\_\_CHRIST-LIKE\_\_\_ as you fulfill God's will.

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."  
(John 15:8, NIV)

#### 3) You start sensing \_\_\_INCREDIBLE LOVE\_\_\_ as you obey God's will.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love."  
(John 15:9-10, NIV)

#### 4) You start discovering \_\_\_COMPLETE JOY\_\_\_ as you follow God's will.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."  
(John 15:11, NIV)